



By Jim Wallace
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ALBANY, GA – Congressman Sanford Bishop says he believes South Georgia's economy is rebounding, and he credits the stimulus plan with helping spur that recovery.

He says spending, Job creation, and construction are showing slight signs of improvement. Bishop says the huge government spending increase associated with the stimulus plan was a bitter pill for taxpayers to swallow, but it was necessary because the U. S. economy was on life support.

"Here in Southwest Georgia we've had many, many challenges, but I have to say but for the efforts that we have put in place over the last 18 months, our experiences would be much, much, much worse."

Bishop says the economy still has plenty of room for improvement, but he thinks the worst of the recession is over for South Georgia. Bishop says legislators will have to set up stronger regulation over oil exploration and drilling to make sure another Gulf Oil Crisis never happens again.

A Mobile, Alabama native, Congressman Bishop said it appears that government regulators who were supposed to be overseeing oil drilling in the Gulf were "too cozy" with oil companies. Bishop said the oil spill has had a devastating impact on the Gulf's environment and economy, and that more needs to be done to help the region.

"No I don't think enough is being done. I don't think adequate safeguards were put in place. But we are moving forward now to make sure that nothing like this ever happens again."

Congressman Bishop said the oil spill will have long lasting effects on the Gulf Region, and legislators need to make sure government regulators guard against another occurrence.